



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Laurel Man Charged In Hate-Bias Incident

Howard County Police have charged a 44-year-old Laurel man in connection with a cross-burning and destruction of property incident that occurred in November. Thomas Donovan Spain, of the 10600 block of Glen Hannah Drive, has been charged with race and/or religious related harassment, race and/or religious related destruction of property, and three counts of misdemeanor destruction of property.

Police began the investigation after receiving a report that someone had attempted to burn a small cross in the common area of a neighborhood off of Glen Hannah Drive in Laurel. Additionally, several tires on two vehicles in the same neighborhood had been slashed. Later, graffiti was discovered on a telephone pole in the area that included profanities and a picture of a swastika.

Detectives were able to determine over the last several months that Spain, who lives in the neighborhood where the offenses were committed, was responsible for each of the crimes. He was charged by detectives and served with a summons late last week.

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